

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER No legal experience required; training provided for volunteer tour leaders

LANSING, MI, September 1, 2009 – An interesting and fun volunteer opportunity is waiting at the [Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center](#) in Lansing – no prior legal experience or training necessary.

The Learning Center, located on the first floor of the [Michigan Hall of Justice](#), relies on volunteers to guide school groups and other visitors through the 3,800 gallery, dedicated to educating the public about Michigan's justice system. Volunteers' responsibilities include demonstrating [interactive computer games](#) and other hands-on activities at the center, including a virtual courtroom. Other duties may include working behind the scenes on workshops and special programs.

Learning Center Coordinator Rachael Drenovsky stressed that volunteers do not need a background in education, law, or government. "That kind of experience is helpful but certainly not necessary," she said. "What's essential is having an interest in the law and a passion for sharing knowledge and enthusiasm with others."

Volunteers attend a series of three-hour orientation sessions and commit to a minimum of eight hours per month. Some positions have additional time and training commitments.

The next series of volunteer orientation sessions will be offered on five consecutive Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, starting October 6, 2009. Classes will include information about the Michigan judicial system, the Learning Center exhibits, and tips for giving great tours. Volunteers will need to attend all five training sessions.

Volunteer applications are due by September 21, 2009. Visit the Learning Center web site at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/volunteer.htm> or call 517-373-5027 for an application. Interviews and background checks will be required for all applicants.

The Learning Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours last one hour and are available on a walk-in basis, although groups of 10 or more are asked to schedule tours in advance by calling 517-373-7171 or e-mailing DrenovskyR@courts.mi.gov. An online form for school tours is available at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/misc/SchoolTourRequest.pdf>.

-- MSC --